

REMARKS

The Disclosure has been objected to for the improper recitation of a reference number at page 7, line 18. The Disclosure has been amended at that location to correct the discrepancy.

Claim 1 has been objected to on the grounds that the term “improved” has been recited. Amended claim 1, as submitted herewith, has the term deleted.

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as the Examiner asserts that the “further means for detecting a state of the shaft doors” is not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it is pertained to practice the invention. Applicant disagrees with the Examiner and requests reconsideration. The paragraph commencing at page 5, line 6 of the present application recites that further means, additional to the locking sensors, can be provided for detecting the state or setting of the shaft doors. At lines 24 – 28 of that page, examples of such further means are recited, as including locking device contacts, micro switches, inductive sensors, capacitive sensors or optical sensors.

Further, at page 8, line 1, there is provided a disclosure of the use of such means, in the form of a locking device contact, with reference to the figures. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would readily recognize and appreciate the nature of such sensors and, based upon the conventional nature of such sensors, how they would be used to detect a state of the shaft doors. It is thus respectfully submitted that the content of claim 10 fully meets the requirements of 35 USC § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, as the Examiner does not understand the term “coincidence check.” Firstly, it is believed that the Examiner has inadvertently referenced claim 7 in the rejection. The objected-to language appears only in claim 8.

Claim 8 has been amended to clarify the performance of the coincidence check. The term “coincidence check” is a term of art well known and appreciated in the electronics field. A coincidence check is precisely what its language implies, a check or determination whether two particular signals exist at the same moment in time; that is, whether they are coincident. A “Google” search of the term will show numerous examples

of such use. The term is also found in a paragraph commencing at page 9, line 1, of the disclosure, where a coincidence check for the two closing processes is performed to confirm that signals indicating the closed nature of both the shaft door 11 and the cage door 13 are in coincidence, i.e., that the closed states of both doors are monitored and reported to be in coincidence. One skilled in the art would fully comprehend the meaning of the coincidence check as recited; withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

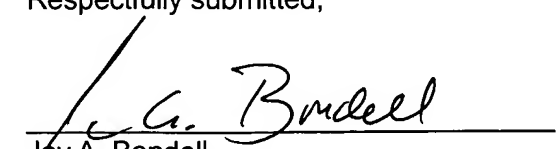
All claims of the application have also been rejected as being anticipated by Herkel et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,173,814. Responsive thereto, applicant has amended claim 1 to further set forth features of the application which are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art, including Herkel et al. '814, and thus render all claims allowable over the reference.

Herkel et al. '814 discloses a control circuit in which it is stated that there is periodic communication between a control microprocessor and bus nodes which can include locking sensors. Herkel et al. '814 does not, however, provide any further specificity as to when such communication and, thus, checking should occur. It suggests only that it be "periodic," which does suggest that it be performed without consideration of specific operating conditions or triggering events. Present claim 1, as amended, now specifically recites that the interrogation is performed by either observing sensor signals during normal elevator operation or during a cage door operation signal sent by the control circuit to an elevator story, whose doors have not been operated within a defined period of time. Such control over the specific timing of the monitoring occasions is nowhere disclosed or suggested. The specific nature of the triggering events provides for improved security and operating integrity without the necessity of continuous interrogation, which is specifically suggested by Herkel et al. '814 and is a non-disclosed and unobvious advance over the prior art.

Withdrawal of all rejections and passage to allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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